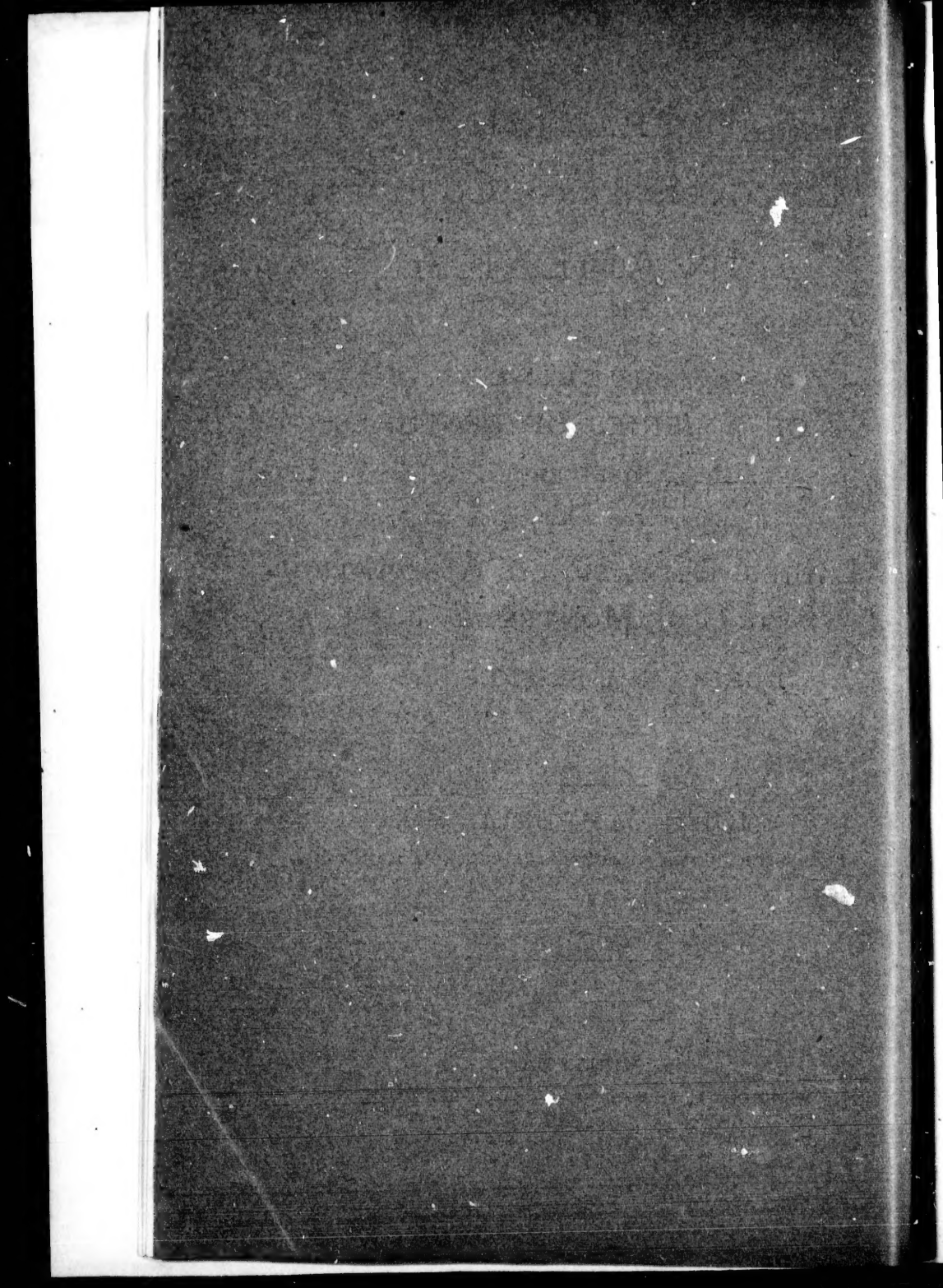


SPANISH
DISCOVERY AND CONQUEST IN AMERICA

BY JOHN CAMPBELL, M. A.



SPANISH
DISCOVERY AND CONQUEST
IN AMERICA.

OUTLINE
OF A SERIES OF LECTURES
DELIVERED

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
LADIES' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MONTREAL,
DURING THE SESSION 1882-83.

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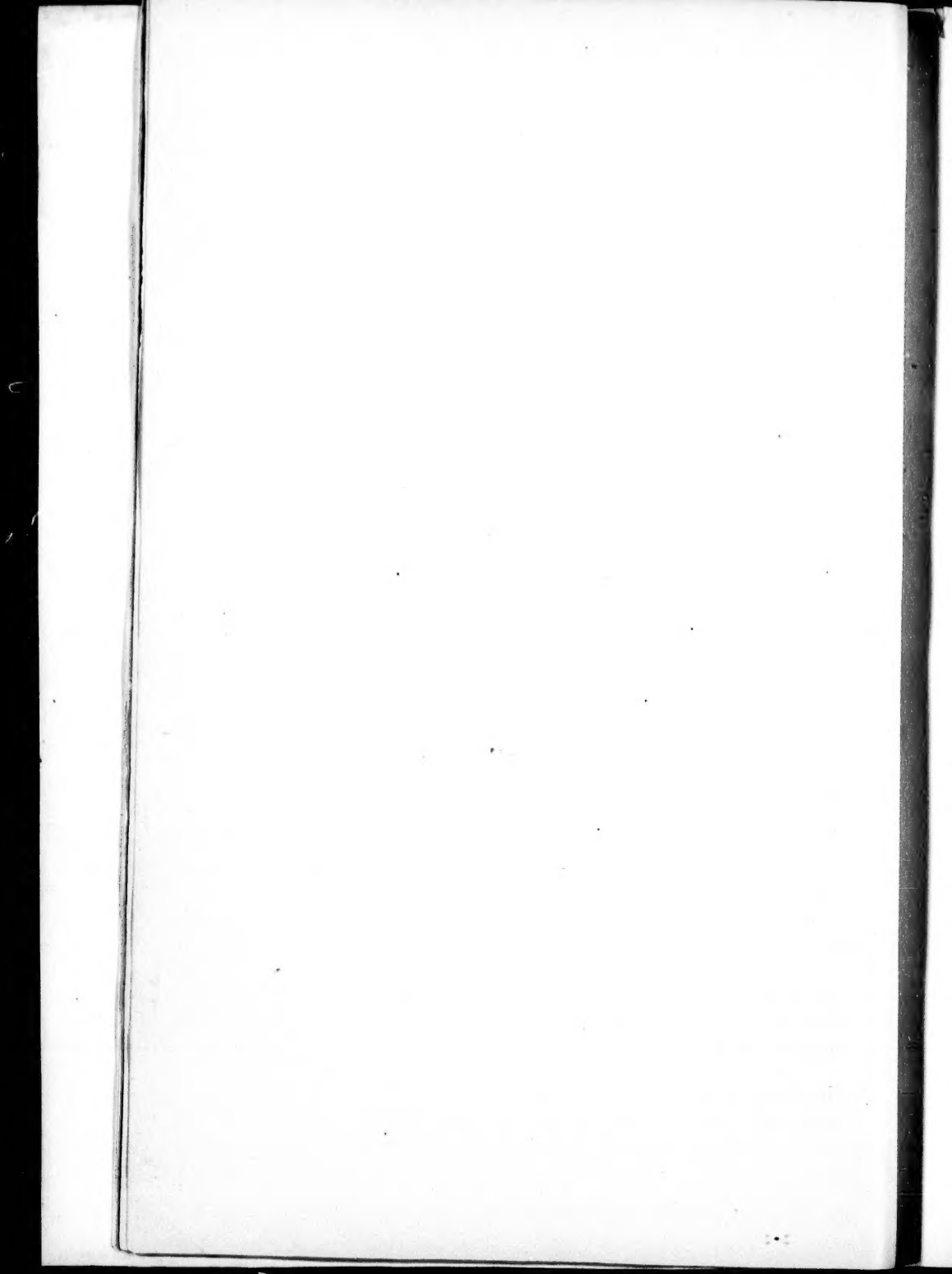


To
THE PRESIDENT,
THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
Ladies' Educational Association of Montreal,
AND
TO THE STUDENTS OF THE COURSE
IN
AMERICAN HISTORY,
THIS OUTLINE

Is respectfully inscribed.

Montreal,

January 29th, 1883.



OUTLINE OF LECTURES

IN THE HISTORY OF

SPANISH DISCOVERY AND CONQUEST IN AMERICA.

LECTURE I.

THE DISCOVERIES OF COLUMBUS.

The 15th century one of great activity and progress. Geographical discoveries of the Greeks and Romans, Arabs, Italians and Portuguese. Exploration of the Atlantic confined to the Norsemen in the North. Southern limits of navigation were the Azores, Madeira, Canary and Cape Verde Islands. Indications of an unknown western world not wanting. Plato's Atlantis; Indian canoe at Lubeck in 1153; carved wood, canes, uprooted trees, strange human bodies, drifted to the shores of islands named above. Spherical form of the earth known, and thus the possibility of reaching India from the West. India the goal of all adventurers.

Character of the Columbus family—Christopher, Bartholomew, Diego. Christopher, a Genoese captain, sails the Mediterranean, the Northern Seas, the waters of western Africa. The Portuguese, seeking to circumnavigate Africa, had only reached the equator. He resolves to seek India by way of the Atlantic and forestall them. His painful task of commending his plan to others. His success with many scholarly men. Genoa rejects his proposal; the King of Portugal deceives him; he goes to Spain. Ferdinand and Isabella occupied with the expulsion of the Moors temporize with him for eight years. Bartholomew visits England, obtains a commission from Henry VII., and Christopher sets out to join him. Isabella, the conquest of Granada being effected, recalls Columbus and gives him his first equipment.

First Voyage, August 3, 1492. Leaves Palos with three ships, the Santa Maria, Pinta, and Nigna, of which the two latter are undecked caravels commanded by the brothers Pinzon. The crews

number 125. Arrive at the Canary Islands and sail from one of them, Gomera, September 6. Discouragements of the voyage, and mutiny after being a month out of sight of land. On the 11th October, land seen. Columbus takes possession of Guanahani in centre of Bahamas group, and calls it San Salvador. The natives deep brown in colour, long-haired, tattooed, well-made, not unprepossessing in feature, gentle and friendly. Their gold ornaments attract the Spaniards. Seven natives accompany Columbus as interpreters to Cuba. Maize found there and many new animal and vegetable productions. The Cubans direct him to Haiti for gold. Visits Haiti, which he calls Hispaniola. Noble conduct of the cacique Guacanahari when the Santa Maria is wrecked. Gold found among the people. Fear of Carib invasions induces Guacanahari to allow 38 Spaniards, under Arada, to remain as a colony. Columbus sails for Spain in the little Nigna, being deserted from time to time by Pinzon in the Pinta. A storm drives him to the Azores, and another into the Tagus. Has an interview with the King of Portugal. Reaches Palos, March 15. Grand reception by Ferdinand and Isabella. Columbus at the height of his prosperity.

Second Voyage, September 1493. A fleet of 17 vessels carries 1,500 persons to the New World or Western Indies. In 26 days from Gomera it arrives at the Caribbean chain. Repelled by the cannibal Caribs. At Haiti or Hispaniola Columbus finds his colonists massacred by the natives, owing to their own excesses. The subjugation of the natives begun and slavery inaugurated. Jamaica discovered. Dissensions in the colony headed by Father Boyle and other malcontents. Columbus returns to Spain in 1496, and finds himself in disgrace owing to the complaints sent home against his government and brotherly partiality.

Third Voyage, 1498. Six vessels carrying Spanish convicts to labour on the plantations composed this expedition. Columbus, sailing farther south than on former occasions, discovers Trinidad. Then he enters the Orinoco and trades with the natives of adjoining regions. Arriving in Hispaniola, he finds that Roldan, the chief justice, has rebelled against the governor, his brother Bartholomew. His convicts aid the insurgents. Columbus reduces them to peace, but they complain against him to the Spanish Court. Francis de Bovadilla sent to supersede him. He sends the three brothers home in chains. Arriving in Spain they are released; Bovadilla is degraded but Ovando receives the Government of the colony. Two years Columbus is kept about the Court, vainly seeking employment.

Fourth Voyage, 1502. With four small vessels Columbus sails to Hispaniola. Loss of the homeward-bound fleet of 18 ships with much treasure and the Admiral's enemies on board. Seeking a westward passage to India, Columbus sails along the coasts of Honduras and the Isthmus. He plants a colony on the Isthmus, which is nearly annihilated by the Indians. Loses two ships and beaches the others on the shore of Jamaica. The natives rebel but are brought to obedience by an eclipse of the moon. The sailors mutiny but are quelled by Bartholomew. Relief comes from Hispaniola, and Columbus sails for Spain, which he reaches in November, 1504, after running 2,000 miles under bare poles.

His Last Years. Columbus is met with the news of Isabella's illness and death. He survives his royal patron a year and a half. His mind injured by sufferings and his body a wreck, he is tended by his brother Bartholomew. Ferdinand pays no heed to his appeals. He dies May 20, 1506. Then the king honours his tomb with the words "To Castile and Leon Colon gave a new world." Don Diego, his eldest son, wins his suit against the crown and becomes Viceroy of Hispaniola.

LECTURE II.

PONCE DE LEON AND FLORIDA.

Superstition in the 15th century. The Alkahest, Philosopher's Stone, and Elixir of Life. The story of Columbus attracted the veteran Juan Ponce de Leon. He sailed with the 1,500 colonists of the second expedition to Hispaniola. In 1501, Don Nicholas de Ovando became governor of the colony and a patron of De Leon. Receiving from Ovando the government of Eastern Hispaniola, he grew rich by oppressing the natives. He invaded Borriquen, which he called Puerto Rico, and became its governor in 1508. There he amassed more wealth, and cruelly oppressed the Indians. In 1509, Don Diego Columbus was made viceroy of Hispaniola, and deprived Ponce de Leon of his conquest. The veteran retired into private life.

He had heard a native tradition of a Fountain of Youth in Bimini, an island to the north-west, popularly believed to be in the Bahama group. The legend is a Polynesian one. He fitted out three vessels, and in 1512 left Porto Rico in quest of the fountain.

Visiting every island in vain, he arrived on Easter Sunday at a land which he called Florida. Sailing along its eastern coast, he came to the St. John River. Nature was beautiful, but the wild Timucua Indians dangerous. Returning, he passed through the Straits of Florida, traded with the natives of the west coast, had some encounters with savage tribes, and finally landed in Porto Rico.

In 1513, Ponce de Leon visited Spain, and obtained the governorship of Florida. On his return to the West Indies a war with the Caribs engaged his attention, so that it was 1521 before he set out on his second search for the Fountain of Youth, which he now expected to find in his new province. As soon as the expedition landed it was attacked by the natives. Many Spaniards were killed and the leader mortally wounded. The survivors sailed to Cuba and there Ponce de Leon died.

Other attempts were made to found colonies in Florida by d'Ayllon, Narvaez and De Soto, but all failed. The first establishment in that country was made by a company of French Huguenots in 1562. Our chief knowledge of the early condition of the peninsula is afforded in the work of René de Laudonnière, who commanded for some time in the colony on St. John River. The French made friends of the Indians. In 1565, Melendez, a bigotted officer, was sent with 500 men to re-assert Spanish supremacy in Florida. He founded St. Augustine, the oldest city in North America of European origin, and then attacked the French settlement on the St. John. Surprising the colony, he massacred nearly all the inhabitants, 900 in number. Then, leaving a large garrison and having set up an inscription to the effect that he had put the French to death for their heresy, he returned to Spain. When the news came to France, Dominic de Gourgues raised 150 soldiers and sailed to the scene of the massacre. On his arrival the Timucuas joined him, and falling upon the Spanish garrison of 350 he put them all to death as robbers, traitors and murderers.

Spain afterwards took possession of the country and attempts were made to evangelize the natives. These, however, always remained intractable. They frequently rebelled, and murdered many Spanish missionaries. The native Floridian race is now extinct.

LECTURE III.

BALBOA AND THE ISTHMUS.

The Isthmus of Panama was first discovered by Juan de la Cosa, a Basque Pilot, in 1501; and in 1502 it was visited by Columbus. In 1509, Alonso de Ojeda obtained the government of Venezuela, and Diego de Nicuessa, that of the Isthmus. At Carthagena, Ojeda lost a great part of his army in battle with the natives. Nicuessa helped him to subdue the country, and then founded a colony at Nombre de Dios on the Isthmus. A small body of the settlers of Carthagena, under Vasco Nugnez de Balboa, also moved westward, and established themselves on the Gulf of Darien. Balboa was elected governor of this station, and at once sought to perform some great deed that should win him favour in Spain. He gained the esteem of the Indians whom he treated with humanity; acquired much gold from them; and heard at their lips of a land of gold (Peru) lying upon the Southern Sea. This was the first intimation that Darien was situated upon an Isthmus.

In the year 1513, having received reinforcements from Hispaniola, Balboa began his famous march to the Pacific Ocean with 190 Spaniards and 1,000 Indians. Braving all the dangers of soil and climate, reptiles and savage foes, traversing jungles and swamps, and climbing lofty mountains, a three weeks journey brought the expedition to the last mountain range. There Balboa beheld the ocean, and descending, took possession of it and its shores for Spain. He had arrived at the Gulf of St. Michael, east of Panama. In expeditions made along the coast he acquired rich stores of gold and pearls, and heard fuller particulars of the wealthy empire in the south. Francisco Pizarro was one of Balboa's officers.

Balboa sent to Spain an account of his discovery and much of the spoil. Fifteen large vessels carried 1,200 soldiers to the new colony, but at their head was Pedro Arias d'Avila, commissioned to supersede the illegally elected governor. Balboa submitted loyally. Pedrarias condemned him to pay a heavy fine for past irregularities, and almost broke the soldier's heart by allowing his followers to oppress and murder his Indian friends.

The failure of Pedrarias to accomplish any thing great induced Ferdinand to appoint Balboa governor of the countries he had discovered on the South Sea. In 1516 the new governor crossed the Isthmus with 300 men and the framework of four brigantines. When

on the point of departing for Peru, he was recalled by Pedrarias, treacherously seized and put to death. Pedrarias, protected by friends in Spain, was allowed to transport his colony to Panama, which became one of the most important of Spanish stations.

In 1695, William Paterson, the projector of the Bank of England, originated in the interests of Scottish commerce the ill-starred Darien scheme. Two companies of 1,200 and 1,300 persons respectively set sail from Scotland for Darien, there to die of fever and starvation. Of the first a miserable remnant sailed to New York. The survivors of the second surrendered to the Spaniards. A strange relic of this expedition is a Gaelic vocabulary tabulated by the Spanish missionaries among those of the natives of Darien.

LECTURE IV.

CORTEZ, AND THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO.

Yucatan was discovered by De Solis in 1506. No attempt was made to occupy this country till 1517, when Diego Velasquez, Governor of Cuba, sent out an expedition under Cordova. Near Campeachy Cordova was assailed by the Mayas and compelled to return. Next year Grijalva, another of Velasquez' officers, avenged the defeat of Cordova, and passing beyond Yucatan, made a descent upon Tobasco and Oajaca, Mexican provinces. Thus the Mexicans first became acquainted with the presence of the Spaniards in America.

Velasquez gave the command of his third expedition to Hernando Cortez, who sailed from Cuba, February 2nd, 1519. In Yucatan he found a captive Spaniard Aguilar, who knew the Maya language, and was presented with a Mexican slave, afterwards known as Donna Marina. Sailing to that part of the Mexican coast now called Vera Cruz, Cortez landed his troops, met the officers of Montezuma, the king, and founded a city. The neighbouring Zempoallans and Totonacs sought his alliance. Encouraged by this the Spaniards destroyed their fleet and prepared for conquest.

On the 16th of August, the army advanced towards the city of Mexico. The Tlaxcalans were overcome and joined the Spanish ranks. Montezuma ordered Cortez to halt at Cholula, where, fearing treachery, he made a great massacre of the inhabitants. In a short time the Spaniards entered Mexico. There Cortez treacher-

ously seized Montezuma, and cruelly executed his son Qualpopoca for attacking the garrison he had left at Vera Cruz. An assault made by the Spaniards upon the temples roused the Mexicans to opposition. Cortez was summoned away by the arrival of Narvaez, whom Velasquez had ordered to supersede him. He overcame Narvaez and won his followers to follow his fortunes.

Returning to Mexico, Cortez found the city in revolt. He brought out the captive Montezuma to quell the insurrection, but the unhappy monarch met his death from his own people. Then followed the *sorrowful night*. As the Spaniards were withdrawing from the city, the Mexicans assailed them and killed half their number. Retiring towards Tlaxcala, the Spaniards gained the victory of Otumba. At Vera Cruz reinforcements joined them, and with the Tlaxcalans and Zempoallans they resumed the offensive.

On the 28th November, 1520, Cortez advanced to Tezcuco, twenty miles from Mexico on the same lake. There much time was spent in making new alliances and building brigantines. It was the 10th of May, 1521, when the siege of Mexico began. It was bravely defended by Guatimozin, the nephew of Montezuma. Another terrible repulse took place. Then, with 150,000 Indian allies Cortez gradually invested the city on every side. Guatimozin, attempting to escape by water, was captured, and after a brief imprisonment put to death. Mexico fell into the hands of the Spaniards but the plunder was inconsiderable.

Cortez retained his government till 1528, when Mendoza superseded him. Then he visited Spain and was received with honour; returning a marquis and commander-in-chief of the army. The only action of note performed by him after this was the discovery of California. In 1540, he retired in disgust to Spain, seeking, like Columbus, the redress of his wrongs. He died almost unnoticed in 1547. His character.

LECTURE V.

THE VOYAGE OF MAGELLAN.

Pope Alexander VI. divided the world of discovery between Portugal and Spain. The line is 300 miles west of the Azores. In 1499 Vasco da Gama returned from India, which he had reached by the Cape of Good Hope. Spanish and Portuguese jealousy. Magellan determined to find a western route to India.

Ferdinand Magalhaens had served under Albuquerque, who became governor of Portugal's Indian colony in 1510. His services being unrecognized, he transferred his allegiance to Spain. Cardinal Ximenes and King Charles favoured him and granted him a fleet of five vessels and crews numbering 250.

On the 10th of August, 1519, Magellan sailed from San Lucar. Sailing south-westward from the Canaries, he arrived at the coast of Brazil. On the 12th January, 1520, the Rio de la Plata discovered, but no western passage. At the end of March the fleet took up winter quarters in the Port of St. Julian in Patagonia. The gigantic natives seen. Mutiny quelled, and two leaders executed. A vessel lost. Sail from St. Julian in the beginning of September, and on the 21st October discovers Straits of Magellan. One ship deserts and returns to Spain.

Magellan enters the Pacific and names it. Sails north-west for three months and twenty days without seeing land. Great destitution and many sailors perish. At length reach the Ladrone Islands. Thievish propensities of the natives. Ancient structures there. On the 28th March discover the Philippines. Kindly reception on Mindanao and Zebu. Intemperate religious zeal. The Prince of Mactan challenges Magellan and his followers. Magellan and six of his companions killed, April 20.

John Sebastian Cano assumes command, Forced to leave Zebu, the Spaniards refit at a neighbouring island, desert one vessel, and in the remaining two sail for the Moluccas. Reach Tidore, November 8th, after touching at Borneo and other islands. A treaty made with the king and a valuable cargo procured. One vessel remains at Tidore and is afterwards taken by the Portuguese. Cano, in the Victory, with 46 Spaniards and 13 Malays sails home.

Cano takes a southern route to avoid the Portuguese. Reaches Timor, January 6th, and stays there a month. Passes the Cape of Good Hope with difficulty. Famine and sickness carry off 21 sailors. Seeking supplies at St. Iago, one of the Cape Verde Islands, 13 sailors are detained by the Portuguese. On the 7th September, 1522, the Victory arrives in San Lucar. Piety of the crew. Spain rejoices in the first voyage round the world.

LECTURE VI.

THE CONQUEST OF PERU, AND THE PIZARROS.

The Pizarro family, Francisco, Ferdinand, Juan and Gonzalo. Ignorance of Francisco. Employed as a swineherd. Becomes a soldier; sees service in Italy, and then visits America, where he gains reputation under Balboa. Takes part in many expeditions from Panama. In 1524 forms a scheme with Diego de Almagro and Fernando Luque to conquer the land of gold.

The first expedition, one of great hardship and suffering. Deserted by most of his surviving comrades, Pizarro will not leave a little island off the coast of Popayan. Pedro de los Rios, Governor of Panama, recalls him, but he takes the ship sent to bring him home and in it sails to Tumbez. There he witnesses the civilization of the Peruvians, obtains gold and silver vessels, llamas, and two young natives to serve as interpreters. He returns to Panama 1527, having occupied three years with his explorations. The governor still refuses to sanction an expedition to Peru, and Pizarro goes to Spain. In Spain Cortez aids him and Charles grants him the governorship of Peru. His treachery towards Almagro. With his three brothers and a small body of soldiers he returns to the colony.

In February, 1531, with 36 horsemen, 150 foot soldiers, and two field pieces, in three vessels, Pizarro sails for Peru. He lands 300 miles north of Tumbez, and marches towards that place. The plunder of Coaque reanimates the drooping spirits of his followers. After delays in the Gulf of Guayaquil and at Tumbez, the river Piura is reached, and St. Michael, the first colony in Peru founded. Pizarro learns that Huascar and Atahualpa, sons of Huayna Capac, who died in 1525, have been at war, and that the former has been made prisoner by his brother. Atahualpa had inherited his mother's kingdom of Quito; Huascar, of pure Inca descent, that of Cuzco. Messengers from the two brothers meet Pizarro and seek his alliance against each other.

Leaving a garrison at St. Michael's, Pizarro takes a twelve days' march to Atahualpa's quarters at Caxamarca. The Spaniards are kindly received. Following the example of Cortez, Pizarro treacherously captures the Peruvian king, and massacres his people. The captive Inca fills his cell with gold plate, which being divided gives 20,000 dollars to every soldier. The jealousy of Almagro's soldiers and Pizarro's wounded vanity procure the death of Atahualpa, who

has already caused his brother to be executed. Manco Capac, a full brother of Huascar, is proclaimed in Cuzco, and the Peruvians, warring against each other, hardly oppose the Spaniards.

With large reinforcements from Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, Pizarro takes Cuzco. Benalcazar, leaving St. Michael, captures Quito. He and Almagro repel Alvarado. Ferdinand Pizarro, who had gone to Spain with the royal share of the spoils, brings Almagro a commission to govern a country to the south of that granted to Pizarro. Almagro insists that this includes Cuzco, and dissensions arise. Meanwhile Almagro goes to Chili and Pizarro founds Lima.

Revolt of the people of Cuzco under Manco Capac. Many bodies of Spaniards cut off. The three brothers of Pizarro besieged in the city by 200,000 Peruvians. Juan Pizarro and many others killed. Almagro returns, defeats the Peruvians, takes Cuzco and imprisons Ferdinand and Gonzalo, together with Alvarado, whom Francisco sends against him. Almagro could easily have acquired supreme authority in Peru, but he trusted Pizarro's promise of an appeal to Spain. He set Ferdinand at liberty; Gonzalo and Alvarado had escaped; and Pizarro, no longer concerned about his brothers' safety, violated his word and advanced against Almagro. Cuzco is taken and sacked, Almagro made prisoner and executed, 1538.

On the 26th of June, 1541, Almagro's son, aided by his tutor Herrada, conspires against Pizarro and puts him to death in Lima. Then he marches with 800 men to Cuzco. But Vaca de Castro, sent to supersede Pizarro, arrives in Peru, pursues young Almagro, and overtakes him at Chupas. A sanguinary engagement costing the lives of 500 Spaniards takes place; Almagro is defeated, taken and executed.

Blasco Nùñez Vela comes to Peru as viceroy. He protects the natives and represses the violence of the adventurers. His own judges at Lima imprison him in a vessel bound for Spain. At the same time Gonzalo Pizarro heads a revolution, takes Cuzco, and afterwards enters Lima in triumph. Vela, gaining his liberty, attacks Gonzalo, but is defeated and put to death. Then Gonzalo sends an expedition which captures Panama and controls the Isthmus.

The Spanish Court, unable to cope with this rebellion by arms, sends a wily priest, Pedro de la Gasca, with a few attendants. He wins over to loyalty the fleet and army at the Isthmus, and sails to Peru. Many soldiers, discontented with Pizarro's rule, join him.

With 1,600 men he meets Pizarro's 1,000 near Cuzco. The soldiers of Gonzalo desert him. He is taken and beheaded. His brother Ferdinand, the only survivor of the family, languishes in a Spanish prison. Gasca reorganizes the Government of Peru and, leaving the administration in vigorous hands, returns to Spain where he receives the bishopric of Palencia.

LECTURE VII.

THE REDUCTION OF NEW GRANADA.

Position of New Granada. Peopled by many diverse tribes, the most important being the nation of the Chibchas or the Muyscas, on the table land of Bogota. The Chibchas numbered 1,200,000. They were a purely agricultural people, peaceful and moral, benevolent, and respectful to women. Their government resembled the Japanese, their religion that of Peru. They had made some progress in the arts, and used coin money.

In 1499, Alonzo de Ojeda, with Amerigo Vespucci, who gave his name to the continent, visited the shores adjacent to New Granada on the east. The pile dwellings of the natives in the water led him to call the country Venezuela. It was first colonized by Germans sent out by the Velsers of Augsburg, who had advanced money to Charles V. It reverted to Spain.

In 1501, Rodrigo de Bastidas explored the coast between Venezuela and the Isthmus, naming Santa Martha and Carthagena, but was compelled to desist, owing to native opposition. Many adventurers traded along the coast and made inroads into the country. One of these was de Bastidas mentioned above, who built Santa Marta in 1525. He was a mild, pacific governor, but his successors abused their Indian trust.

Don Pedro de Herredia founded Cartagena in 1533, the finest walled city in America. He also was a humane governor. He traversed all the western part of New Granada and found great spoil. His followers robbed the sepulchral mounds of the Indians, who were generally friendly. The prize money of the private soldier of one expedition was 15,000 dollars. Many of the tribes were agricultural, manufacturing and commercial. The successors of Herredia were guilty of the most infamous treachery and cruelty. The document they read to the native chiefs.

The Chibchas of Bogota lived in peace on their fertile plateau in the heart of the Andes. In 1536, they were invaded by Gonzalo Ximenes de Quesada, Governor of Santa Marta, from the north, and by Sebastian de Benalcazar, the conqueror of Quito, from the south. The Chibchas, terrified by the firearms and horses, nevertheless fight bravely, but are subdued. They submit quietly to Spanish government and are exempted from slavery. In 1538, Quesada founds the Spanish town of Bogota. Two hundred thousand Chibchas still survive and evidence the high character of their nation. Anecdote of Senora Rodriquez. Bogota an oasis in the desert of Spanish conquest.

LECTURE VIII.

DE SOTO AND THE MISSISSIPPI.

Ferdinand de Soto began his American career in Nicaragua. In 1532, he joined Pizarro in Peru, but, foreseeing dissensions, deserted him after the taking of Cuzco, and returned with great wealth to Spain. He was well received at Court, married a lady of rank, and obtained from Charles the Governments of Cuba and Florida. In Florida, or near it, he expected to find an empire rivalling those of Mexico and Peru. Of the cavaliers who flocked to his fleet he chose 600, and with them sailed to Cuba. Two ships, sent to reconnoitre the Floridian coast, returned with two Indian captives, and good reports. De Soto left his bride to govern Cuba, and with high hopes set out for the mainland.

In March, 1539, the expedition sailed and in a fortnight landed in Espiritu Santo Bay. Most of the vessels returned to Havana, a few remaining to coast along the shore. Then began the strange march through the wilderness, of soldiers, artificers, priests and camp followers, horses, swine and bloodhounds. Supplies of Indian corn were found; native villages and the natives themselves were met with; but no gold. A soldier of Narvaez, who had been enslaved by the Indians, knew of no rich country in the neighbourhood. Barbarous cruelty of the Spaniards towards the inhabitants. The first winter was spent in the Appalachian country east of the Flint River. From this point a small party of explorers discovered Pensacola and communicated with the ships. Already his followers begged De Soto to give up his hopeless undertaking but he was inflexible.

In the spring of 1540, the expedition advanced, with diminished

pomp, over the hills and plains of Georgia. The Indians disputed the way and were slaughtered. Near Savannah, in a native village, were found relics of the disastrous expedition of Vasquez d'Ayllon. Now De Soto moved north-westward to the land of the Cherokees. This hospitable people received him kindly, but, finding no wealth among them, he marched westward into Alabama and halted for a time on the banks of the Coosa. Then, journeying southward along the Alabama, the Spaniards came to Mobile. The Mobilians rose against them, killed and wounded many soldiers, while much of the baggage of the army perished in the flames of the town. After this, De Soto came to Pensacola, but refused to embark in the ships there awaiting him. Returning towards the north-west, he entered the country of the Chickasas, in the north of what is now Mississippi. There he wintered on the banks of the Yazoo.

When the spring came, De Soto demanded 200 porters from the Chickasa chiefs. Instead of complying they flew to arms, surprised the Spanish camp by night, and set fire to their deserted village which the Spaniards occupied. Many lives were lost, many animals perished, and clothes and arms were destroyed. With great energy De Soto laboured to retrieve his evil fortune. He succeeded in resisting the Chickasas, and compelled them to furnish him with guides. The ragged regiment, inspired with the amazing confidence of its leader, advanced to the west and discovered the Mississippi. In a month boats were made and the Spaniards crossed the river into Arkansas, where the kindly natives worshipped them and supplied all their wants. The northern limit of the expedition was South-Eastern Missouri, but foraging parties advanced farther and brought back word of the boundless prairies, the home of the buffalo.

After a westward march towards the Ozarks, De Soto turned southwards through Central Arkansas. Everywhere the inhabitants were found to be a mild, agricultural race. The Spaniards oppressed them with impunity, and De Soto himself set an example of fiendish cruelty. When they came to the junction of the Red River and the Mississippi, in Louisiana, they found a dangerous country of poisonous swamp and tangled wood, and a warlike Indian people who gave them no rest. The Indians were the hunters now, and they the prey.

On the 21st May, 1542, De Soto died of disease, exposure and a broken heart, and was buried in the waters of the Mississippi.

LECTURE IX.

LAS CASAS, THE APOSTLE OF THE INDIANS.

Bartholomew Las Casas came to Hispaniola with his father in Columbus' second expedition. Commiserating the Indians, he resolved to devote his life to their service. Visiting Spain he became a priest, and on his return united with the Dominican Missionaries in condemning slavery. In 1516, he was sent to Spain to plead the cause of the natives, who had been reduced from a million in 1492 to 14,000. He spoke fearlessly to Ferdinand, who died before there was an opportunity to change the law. Cardinal Ximenes, however, sent out a commission consisting of three monks of St. Jerome, and Zuazo, a lawyer. The commission sided with the slaveholders, from whose fury Las Casas was compelled to seek refuge in a convent.

In 1518, he again visited Spain and, gaining the favour of Charles's Flemish advisers, induced that Monarch to appoint Indian superintendents, and allow the transportation of negroes to the West Indies to take the place of the natives. But his great scheme was a native colony in Cumana. In this connection he held a public disputation with Quevedo, Bishop of Darien, at Barcelona. Obtaining his patent and with difficulty collecting 200 labourers, Las Casas set out for the new colony. At Porto Rico he found a warlike expedition preparing to ravage Cumana with fire and sword in revenge for the natives' justifiable attacks upon marauding Spaniards. When he lands his feeble colony, after vainly seeking protection for them, the work of revenge is done. But the Cumanans take a new revenge, and his colonists are the victims. A disappointed man, Las Casas retires to the monastery in Hispaniola and becomes a Dominican Monk, 1522.

Eight years he passed in the monastery, engaged in devotion and in writing his history, for he was not allowed to preach. Great events were taking place: Enrique's rebellion in Hispaniola, conquests in Mexico and the Isthmus, and expeditions to Peru. The cry of the oppressed Indian cannot be resisted longer. He goes to Spain, 1530. There he obtains without difficulty a decree favouring the Peruvians. On his return he accompanies some brethren of his order to Mexico. Thence he journeys through Guatemala to Nicaragua, where he finds a vessel going to Peru. He arrives at the Spanish quarters and delivers his decree, to which Pizarro pays no attention. On his return to Nicaragua, the bishop of that government prevails

upon him and his companions to found a Dominican Monastery at Leon. In a short visit to Hispaniola he succeeds in bringing the Cacique Enrique to peace and in converting all his people. After this his old warfare with slavery and cruelty is waged anew in Nicaragua. But the governor being his inveterate enemy, he is compelled to retire to Guatemala.

In the convent at Santiago de Guatemala Las Casas devotes himself to the evangelization of the Quichés. The Spaniards mockingly recommend him to attempt the conversion of Tezulutlan, the land of war, in the mountains, which has long resisted their arms. In 1537, he accepts the challenge. The great truths of the Christian religion are embodied in Quiché verse and set to native music. Four Christian merchants sing the strange song in Tezulutlan. The chiefs sends for the missionaries to explain it, and soon the land of war is the land of peace. This was Las Casas' great triumph.

In 1539, he visited Spain and gained many favours for the natives in every colony. Soon after he was consecrated Bishop of Chiapa, in Mexico, and there carried on his good work. In 1551, at the age of 77, he resigned the bishopric and returned to Spain as the ambassador of the Indians and their missionaries at the Court. Labouring constantly till his last day, he died in 1566 at the age of 92.

LECTURE X.

PIZARRA, AND THE SUBJUGATION OF CHILI.

The natives of Chili were a brave and somewhat cultivated people. Their government was tribal under chiefs, called Toquis. The generic name of the Chilians proper was Molu-che or Western people, of the tribes of La Plata, Puel-che or Eastern people, and of the Patagonians, Huilli-che or Southern people. The most important Chilian nation was that of Arauca, in the south.

About 1300, envoys from La Plata came to the Peruvian Inca Viracocha, tendered the allegiance of their country Tucuman, and told him of Chili. Viracocha took possession of Tucuman and civilized it. His grandson, Yupanqui, who reigned in the first half of the 15th century, invaded Chili, conquered the northern tribes, and sustained a disastrous defeat from the Araucans.

Almagro, the companion of Pizarro, after the conquest of Cuzco, crossed the Andes and invaded Chili with 570 men. The Chilians bravely resisted his troops and made him glad to return to Peru.

In 1541, Pedro de Valdivia left Peru for Chili, and found the natives apparently peaceful. He founded the settlement of Santiago. When the harvest was over the Araucans flew to arms and fought with desperate valour. The Spaniards, however, kept them in check for many years and multiplied settlements. It was thought that they had been subdued, when Colocolo, an aged chief, raised a body of 13,000 warriors. Valdivia met them with 150 Spaniards, but was overpowered and killed with all his followers. Francisco de Villagra, his lieutenant, with difficulty saved the colony, although many Spanish settlements were annihilated. The Araucans were never thoroughly subdued.

The Chilian war is the subject of the Spanish epic *Araucana*, written by Alonzo de Ercilla, y Zuniga. He was a page in the suite of Philip of Spain, when General Aldarete was sent out to quell a rebellion in 1554. Leaving the Court of England, where Philip then was, he joined Aldarete as a volunteer, and on the death of that officer served under Don Garcias, son of the Viceroy of Peru. During the war he wrote fifteen cantos of the *Araucana*. A riot in Imperial, growing out of a quarrel between Ercilla and a young Spanish officer, was construed into a rebellion. He narrowly escaped execution and was imprisoned for five years. At the end of his sentence he returned to Spain, finished his poem and published it. Philip neglected him, and he died in poverty. Yet his poem was highly thought of in its time, and has won the praise of Voltaire and other judges of poetry. The *Araucana* is an accurate narrative of fact.

The hero of the poem is Caupolican, an Araucan chief chosen, by the suggestion of the aged Colocolo, for his superior strength. After a career of victory gained over the Spaniards by his courage and skill, the tide of fortune turns. Spanish reinforcements and native dissensions weaken his ranks. For a short time he maintains a guerilla warfare, but is at last captured by the treachery of one of his followers. He proposes to effect the pacification of his people if his life is spared. However, he is condemned to die, fastened to the stake, and a negro is about to strangle him, when he raises his manacled arms and strikes the executioner off the scaffold. He is then made a mark for the Spanish arrows, under which he expires. Spain suffered for this unmanly deed by incurring the inveterate hatred of Caupolican's countrymen whom clemency would have conciliated.

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